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ABSTRACT

In November 1983, a questionnaire was mailed to 1,761 addresses in the J. A. Garfield school district to ascertain citizens' awareness of computers in schools and their support for school computer purchases and provision of instruction in computer programming. A total of 125 questionnaires were returned (a 7.09% response rate). Findings showed that 78% of the respondents had a child or children enrolled in the Garfield schools; 67% were aware that Garfield schools own computers for students to use in learning; 18% owned home computers; and 46% intended to purchase a computer for home use. Strong support for computers in schools was also found, with 89% of the respondents indicating that Garfield schools should use computers as an instructional tool, 95% indicating that Garfield students should be taught to use computers, and 86% indicating that Garfield students should be taught computer programming. Based on these responses, it was recommended that Garfield schools continue to provide computer experience for their students and that they make a broader effort to inform the public of computer uses in the curriculum. This publication presents survey methodology and results, a sample questionnaire, and a listing of comments received from respondents. (ESR)

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GARFIELD COMPUTER SURVEY - 1983

Submitted to:

Garfield Board of Education

Dr. Ed Semple, Jr.
Director of Public Relations

IR011085

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Garfield Computer Survey - 1983

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Garfield Computer Survey - 1983

Introduction. It is difficult at times to introduce new programs as part of the curriculum. It is always helpful to have community support for such moves. Introduction of computers in the curriculum is no different than other additions. Community support is necessary.

Measured nationally in the 15th Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools(1983)(1) the response to the question "Would you like the school your child attends to install a computer that students could use?" 81% of public school parents answered yes.(see figure 1)

Figure 1.

	Public School Parents %	Non Public School Parents %
Yes	81	56
No	10	30
Don't Know	9	14

To the question, "Does the school your child attends have a computer that students can use?" 45% of public school parents answered yes.(see figure 2)

Figure 2.

	Public School Parents %	Non Public School Parents %
Yes	45	47
No	32	33
Don't Know	23	20

Writing in the September 1982 issue of Popular Computing Daniel Watt(2) expresses his view that all students should learn to program computers. Watt states that computer programming involves several different aspects of learning. The first is learning to use the computer. Secondly, the developing of a set of personal problem-solving strategies are learned, and third, the subject with which the program is concerned is learned.

Survey

Design. In an effort to see what the citizens of the Garfield Local School District feel about computers a survey was designed.(see figure 3)

Figure 3.

SURVEY

Please complete and mail or send by your child to the address below. The results will be included in a future edition of the newsletter. Thank you.

Circle one:

YES NO 1. Do you live in the James A. Garfield School district?

YES NO 2. Do you have a child enrolled in the Garfield elementary?

YES NO 3. Do you have a child enrolled in the Garfield middle or high school?

YES NO 4. Do the Garfield schools have computers for students to use in learning?

YES NO 5. Do you have a computer (other than hand calculator or video game) in your home? If answered yes, skip to question No. 7.

YES NO 6. Do you intend to purchase a computer for home use?

YES NO 7. Do you think the Garfield schools should use computers as an instructional tool in teaching students?

YES NO 8. Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

YES NO 9. Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

10. I am a MALE FEMALE (Circle

11. I am 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 [illegible] Over 69

Please complete and mail or send by November 15 to:

Dr. Ed Semple, Jr.
Garfield Elementary School
10207 St. Rt. 38
Garrettsville, OH 44231

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dr. Semple at 527-4341, extension 35.

Please do not sign your name to this survey.

The survey contained eleven questions among which are questions similar to those discussed earlier on awareness of computers in our schools, support for computers in schools, and programming of computers by children.

Procedure. The survey was mailed as part of the district's November Newsletter to 1761 addresses in the Garfield Local School District. One hundred twenty-five surveys were returned by the deadline of November 15, 1983 which is 7.09% of those mailed.(see table 1) The data was compiled into 32 tables for quick reference.

Results. (questions 1-3) Of the 125 respondents to the survey 76% were female, 21.6% male and 2.4% did not indicate their sex.(see table 2)

The 30-39 age group had the biggest response to the survey. Sixty-four(64) of the 125 respondents or 51.2% of the respondents were in this age group. Fifty-two(52) of the 30-39 year old respondents were female or 41.6% of the total respondents.(see table 3)

Ninety-eight(98) of the 125 respondents to the survey or 78.4% have a child/children enrolled in the Garfield Schools.(see table 4) Of the 98, 60% or 75 respondents have a child/children in the elementary school,(see table 5) while 59 or 47.2% have a child/children enrolled in the high school and/or middle school.

-(question 4) Eighty-four(84) of the 125 respondents or 67.2% believe the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning. Of the 84, 73 parents or 74.48% and

11 respondents or 40.74% without children in the Garfield Schools believe the schools have computers. These results indicate a need for more communication from the schools on the use of computers in our schools. For additional comments on question 4 see appendix A.

-(question 5) Twenty-three(23) homes or 18.4% have computers while 101 homes or 80.8% do not.(see table 8)

-(question 6) Of the 101 homes without computers 46 or 45.54% intend to purchase computers for home use while an equal number do not. Nine(9) gave no answer to the question.(see table 9)

-(question 7) In answer to the question of whether the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool 111 or 88.8% answered yes.(see table 10a) Eighty-six(86) of the parent respondents or 87.75% and 25 of the respondents without children enrolled or 92.59% feel the schools should use computers as an instructional tool. (see tables 10b and 10c)

The percentages 88.8, 87.75, and 92.59 are very high and indicate support for using computers as an instructional tool. For additional comments on question 7 see appendix B.

-(question 8) In answer to the question of whether Garfield students should be taught to use computers 119 or 95.2% answered yes.(see table 11a) Ninety-four(94) of the parent respondents or 95.91% and 25 of the respondents without children enrolled or 92.5% feel that Garfield students

should be taught to use computers.(see tables 11b and 11c)

The percentages 95.2, 95.91, and 92.59 are very high and strongly support the statement that Garfield students should be taught to use computers. For additional comments on question 8 see appendix C.

-(question 9) In answer to the question of whether Garfield students should be taught to program computers 107 or 85.6% answered yes.(see table 12a) Eighty-five(85) of the parent respondents or 86.73% and 22 of the respondents without children enrolled or 81.48% feel that Garfield students should be taught to program computers.(see tables 12b and 12c) For additional comments on question 9 see appendix D.

Table 14 indicates that 88.33% of the parents of high school children responding to the survey are aware that the schools have computers for learning. Tables 13 and 15 indicate that more communication from the schools to elementary parents and citizens in the district is necessary to inform citizens of the computers in use in our district.

Tables 16-18 indicate a strong support across age groups of all citizens for the use of computers as an instructional tool.

Tables 19-21 indicate a very strong support for Garfield students being taught to use computers.

Tables 22-24 indicate strong support of the teaching of students to program computers.

For general comments on the survey see appendix E.

Summary. What does it all mean?

One hundred twenty-five(125) of the 1761 surveys mailed were returned. Approximately three-fourths of the respondents were female. The biggest response was from the 30-39 age group which contributed over one-half of the surveys returned.(64/125)

Ninety-eight(98) of the 125 people responding to the survey have children enrolled in the Garfield Schools. That lends some credibility to the responses since we are serving the children of many of those responding.

The one area we as a school district could improve upon is communicating facts about our curriculum, especially computer education. This can be done in future issues of the Newsletter. We have already expanded our mailing list to cover parents who were not on our original list.

Only 18.4% of the homes responding to the survey have computers. Of the 101 homes that do not, 46 intend to purchase one in the future.

The percentages in favor of using computers as an instructional tool, for students to use computers in learning, and for students to learn to program computers indicates strong support for computers in the curriculum.

It is recommended that we continue to provide computer experiences for our students, while we make a broader effort to inform the public of computers in our curriculum.

Bibliography

(1) Gallup, George. "The 15th Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools." Kappan, Vol. 65, No. 1, September 1983, pp. 33-47.

(2) Watt, Daniel. "Should Children Be Computer Programmers?" Popular Computing, September 1982, pp. 130-132.

Table 1

Number of Surveys Mailed/Returned

Surveys Mailed	Surveys Returned	Percentage of Surveys Returned
N	N	%
1761	125	7.09

Table 2

Sex of Respondents

Male		Female		Sex Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
27	21.6	95	76.	3	02.4	125	100

Table 3

Sex of Respondents by Age

Age	Male		Female		Sex Not Indicated		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	1	.8	8	6.4	0	0	9	7.2
30-39	12	9.6	52	41.6	0	0	64	51.2
40-49	6	4.8	17	13.6	0	0	23	18.4
50-59	3	2.4	11	8.8	0	0	14	11.2
60-69	2	1.6	2	1.6	0	0	4	3.2
Over 69	3	2.4	4	3.2	0	0	7	5.6
Age Not Indicated	0	0	1	.8	3	2.4	4	3.2
Totals	27	21.6	95	76.	3	2.4	125	100.

Table 4

Percentage of Respondents who have children in the Garfield Schools

Surveys Returned	Surveys Returned by Parents of Children in Garfield Schools	Percentage
N	N	%
125	98	78.4

Table 5

Respondents Having a Child/Children Enrolled
in Garfield Elementary (Question 2)

Child/Children Enrolled		No Child Enrolled		Not Indicated		Total Respondents	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
75	60.	49	39.2	1	.8	125	100

Table 6

Respondents Having a Child/Children Enrolled
in Garfield High School and/or Garfield Middle School (Question 3)

Child/Children Enrolled		No Child Enrolled		Not Indicated		Total Respondents	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
59	47.2	64	51.2	2	1.6	125	100

Table 7a

Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

All Respondents (Question 4)

Yes		No		Question Not Answered		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
84	67.2	16	12.8	25	20.	125	100

Table 7b

Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

Parent Respondents (Question 4)

Yes		No		Question Not Answered		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
73	74.48	11	11.22	14	14.28	98	100

Table 7c

Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

Respondents with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools (Question 4)

Yes		No		Question Not Answered		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
11	40.74	5	18.51	11	40.74	27	100

Table 8

Homes Currently With Computers (Question 5)

With Computers		Without Computers		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
23	18.4	101	80.8	1	.8	125	100

Table 9

Homes Without Computers

Do you intend to purchase a computer for home use? (Question 6)

Intend to Purchase		Do Not Intend to Purchase		No Indication		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
46	45.54	46	45.54	9	8.91	101	100

Table 10a

Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool?

All Respondents (Question 7)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
111	88.8	11	8.8	3	2.4	125	100

Table 10b

Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool?

Parent Respondents (Question 7)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
86	87.75	9	9.18	3	3.06	98	100

Table 10c

Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool?

Respondents with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools (Question 7)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
25	92.59	2	7.40	0	0	27	100

Table 11a

Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

All Respondents (Question 8)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
119	95.2	5	4.	1	.8	125	100

Table 11b

Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

Parent Respondents (Question 8)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
94	95.91	4	4.08	0	0	98	100

Table 11c

Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

Respondents with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools

(Question 8)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
25	92.59	1	3.7	1	3.7	27	100

Table 12a

Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

All Respondents (Question 9)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
107	85.6	16	12.8	2	1.6	125	100

Table 12b

Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

Parent Respondents (Question 9)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
85	86.73	11	11.22	2	2.04	98	100

Table 12c

Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

Respondents with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools (Question 9)

Yes		No		Not Indicated		Totals	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
22	81.48	5	18.51	0	0	27	100

Table 13

Elementary Parents' responses to question 4 - Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	2	33.33	2	33.33	2	33.33	6	100
30-39	36	70.58	6	11.76	9	17.64	51	100
40-49	12	92.30	0	0	1	7.69	13	100
50-59	1	50.	1	50.	0	0	2	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
Totals	51	69.86	9	12.32	13	17.80	73	

Table 14

Responses to question 4 by parents with student/students in Garfield High School and/or Garfield Middle School. Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-39	29	90.62	0	0	3	9.37	32	100
40-49	18	90.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	20	100
50-59	6	75.0	2	25.0	0	0	8	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	88.33	3	5.0	4	6.66	60	

Table 15

Responses of people with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools to question 4 - Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	2	66.66	0	0	1	33.33	3	100
30-39	2	33.33	2	33.33	2	33.33	6	100
40-49	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	1	100
50-59	3	42.85	1	14.28	3	42.85	7	100
60-69	3	75.0	0	0	1	25.0	4	100
Over 69	1	16.66	2	33.33	3	50.0	6	100
Totals	11	40.74	5	18.51	11	40.74	27	

Table 16

Elementary Parents' responses to question 7 - Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool in teaching?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	5	83.33	1	16.66	0	0	6	100
30-39	48	94.11	3	5.88	0	0	51	100
40-49	9	69.23	3	23.07	1	7.69	13	100
50-59	2	100.0	0	0	0	0	2	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100
Totals	65	89.04	7	9.58	1	1.36	73	

Table 17

Responses to question 7 by parents with student/students in Garfield High School and/or Garfield Middle School. Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool in teaching?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-39	29	90.62	2	6.25	1	3.12	32	100
40-49	17	85.0	2	10.0	1	5.0	20	100
50-59	7	87.5	1	12.5	0	0	8	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	53	88.33	5	8.33	2	3.33	60	

Table 18

Responses of people with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools to question 7 - Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool in teaching?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	3	100.0	0	0	0	0	3	100
30-39	5	83.33	1	16.66	0	0	6	100
40-49	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100
50-59	7	100.0	0	0	0	0	7	100
60-69	4	100.0	0	0	0	0	4	100
Over 69	5	83.33	1	16.66	0	0	6	100
Totals	25	92.59	2	7.40	0	0	27	

Table 19

Elementary Parents' responses to question 8 - Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	6	100.0	0	0	0	0	6	100
30-39	50	98.03	1	1.96	0	0	51	100
40-49	11	84.61	2	15.38	0	0	13	100
50-59	2	100.0	0	0	0	0	2	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100
Totals	70	95.89	3	4.1	0	0	73	

Table 20

Responses to question 8 by parents with student/students in Garfield High School and/or Garfield Middle School. Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-39	31	96.87	1	3.12	0	0	32	100
40-49	19	95.0	1	5.0	0	0	20	100
50-59	7	87.5	1	12.5	0	0	8	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	57	95.0	3	5.0	0	0	60	

Table 21

Responses of people with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools to question 8 - Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	3	100.0	0	0	0	0	3	100
30-39	5	83.33	1	16.66	0	0	6	100
40-49	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100
50-59	7	100.0	0	0	0	0	7	100
60-69	4	100.0	0	0	0	0	4	100
Over 69	5	83.33	0	0	1	16.66	6	100
Totals	25	92.59	1	3.7	1	3.7	27	

Table 22

Elementary Parents' responses to question 9 - Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	6	100	0	0	0	0	6	100
30-39	47	92.15	3	5.88	1	1.96	51	100
40-49	8	61.53	5	38.46	0	0	13	100
50-59	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0	2	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100
Totals	63	86.3	9	12.3	1	1.36	73	

Table 23

Responses to question 9 by parents with student/students in Garfield High School and/or Garfield Middle School. Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-39	28	87.5	2	6.25	2	6.25	32	100
40-49	16	80.0	4	20.0	0	0	20	100
50-59	6	75.0	2	25.0	0	0	8	100
60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	50	83.33	8	13.33	2	3.33	60	

Table 24

Responses of people with no children enrolled in the Garfield Schools to question 9 - Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

Age	Yes		No		No Answer		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20-29	3	100.0	0	0	0	0	3	100
30-39	3	50.0	3	50.0	0	0	6	100
40-49	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100
50-59	6	85.71	1	14.28	0	0	7	100
60-69	4	100.0	0	0	0	0	4	100
Over 69	5	83.33	1	16.66	0	0	6	100
Totals	22	81.48	5	18.51	0	0	27	

Appendix A

Comments on Question 4 - Do the Garfield Schools have computers for students to use in learning?

....

(elementary parent)

"limited"

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"not nearly enough. Middle School has I believe but mainly for exposure."

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"Neither of our children has had the opportunity to use one - so I suppose you have a limited amount."

....

Appendix B

Comments on Question 7 - Do you think the Garfield Schools should use computers as an instructional tool in teaching students?

....

(high school and/or middle school parent)

"If Beneficial"

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"All Schools in Cuyahoga County are teaching computer classes."

....

(elementary parent)

"Only if students' needs can be met by the program."

....

(elementary parent)

"Only in a computer course - they need the teacher not a box to talk with."

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"Shouldn't be restricted to 'bright students' or 'special' groups."

....

Appendix C

Comments on Question 8 - Do you think Garfield students should be taught to use computers?

....

(high school and/or middle school parent)

"In high school/ Junior & Senior years."

....

(high school and/or middle school parent)

"I think it should be elective."

....

Appendix D

Comments on Question 9 - Do you think Garfield students should be taught to program computers?

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"Perhaps as more 'in depth', but it doesn't seem a necessary part of 'computer literacy' to me - Could be taught as after school special interest."

....

(elementary parent)

"Definitely!" This should be the main goal of computer education!"

....

(no student enrolled)

"You have a vocational school for that - also proper programming is an art not learned in a year or two in high school."

....

Appendix E

Comments of General Nature as Written on the Survey

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"It is easier to teach a young child on a computer. Also French and Spanish should be taught in the elementary school - speaking 1-3 grade 4-6 learning to write and do grammar - These little minds are like sponges they absorb knowledge taught to them."

....

(high school and/or middle school parent)

"Computer training is not a MUST! It's the icing on a basic education. Doesn't bother me a bit."

....

(high school and/or middle school parent)

"Let's get back to the basics! Decimals-fractions-percentages, etc.

....

(elementary parent)

"Computers should be included - but they are not a cure-all!"

....

(elementary parent)

"Although I do not know that the schools have computers, I do not feel they have the proper equipment to service the maximum no. of students."

....

(elementary and high school and/or middle school parent)

"I think they should use the brains GOD gave them!

....

General Comments (Cont.)

....

(elementary parent)

"P.S. Please note. Children should learn to read & write before computers are to be use or taught."

....

(elementary parent)

"As parents of school-age children, we are very much in favor of computer education. We also feel it is very important to offer some form of adult education in computers for those interested. We definitely plan to buy a home computer in the future but not until we are able to attend some form of a workshop, seminar, etc. on the topic. Can any such program be offered for adults?"

....

(no children enrolled)

"It's so hard to know the school's role in our society, isn't it? There are many voices to be heard, so I so not hesitate to add mine. I think the most able are not only neglected, but discriminated against. Computers are a must to prepare children for taking advantage of the fast development of technology. But - that's not all there is to life. I vote for and applaud any increased effort you can make for those who will be leaders in our future society.

....

(no children enrolled)

"I have been a part of the school in the past and had 4 children through it. But now teach the Basics. So they can go out and work instead of Welfare."

....